THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

As of January 2, I will be on a four month leave of absence from my position at the Provincial Library. During my absence, Gillian Webster will take on the responsibility of editing and distributing THE DISSEMINATOR, and Carol Morris will take over my LINKed column.

Also, please note that the Web version of this issue contains a few graphical enhancements which the ascii-based e-mail version can't disseminate (pun!). If you would like to view this (or any) issue, please go to http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/provlib/disseminator/.

On behalf of all the staff at the Provincial Library, I wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday.
-- Sue Dirani

COUNCIL OF REGIONAL LIBRARIANS MEETING REPORT

The Council of Regional Librarians (CORL) met on November 6 and 7 at the Provincial Library with all regional library directors, the Provincial Librarian, and the Provincial Library coordinators in attendance. Topics for discussion included CanCopy, the development of a Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Internet Handbook, and planning for implementation of the Regional Libraries' Strategic Plan. A public relations awareness workshop was presented by Joan Waldron. Since one of the key goals of the strategic plan is to increase the awareness of library services and resources within local communities, some of the ideas presented by Joan will assist in this process. The Standards for Nova Scotia Regional Public Libraries draft report was also reviewed by the group with a further meeting of the Standards Working Group planned. Notice was given that the APLA (Atlantic Provinces Library Association) annual conference will be May 21-24 at Acadia University in Wolfville. Judith Hare and Andrew Poplawski, both of the Halifax Regional Library, are involved in conference preparation. The next CORL meeting is planned for May 4 - 5, 1998.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES RESEARCH PROJECT BEGINS

School library services are an integral part of the school and the student's learning experience. The type and level of service in school libraries varies depending on resources, personnel and facilities, as well as the role the school library plays within the community. Presently, some school libraries offer enhanced learning opportunities for students, while in other instances the school library's role is limited. Furthermore, as information technology continues to advance, the need for school library services to adapt is apparent. Students today are exposed to an increasing amount of information in their daily lives. Learning experiences go beyond the printed medium to emerging media including videos, CD-ROM, computer software and Internet based information. Students need to become more information literate. This involves more than simply accessing information. It also includes having the ability to analyse, synthesize and problem solve efficiently.

The Department of Education and Culture recognizes that services and programs provided in school libraries are not consistent across the province. This imbalance creates inequities in providing school library services to students that should be addressed. Therefore, the Department has embarked on an ambitious research project concerning School Libraries which will result in a report with recommendations being submitted to the Deputy Minister and School Board Administrators. The project will consist of three components plus a final report. The three preliminary components are an overview of the project, a survey, and research on established standards. Both the survey and the standards research are to be preceded by proposals which are currently being drafted. It is hoped to have the report completed by September of 1998. For more information, contact Sheldon Mitchell (mitchels@gov.ns.ca) at 424-2453.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES FOR TOMORROW SYMPOSIUM

Marion Pape of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and Holly Gunn of the Nova Scotia School Library Association attended the School Libraries for Tomorrow Symposium in Ottawa from Nov. 19-22. The following excerpt is from a report distributed by conference organizers. For a copy of the full report, contact Marion Pape (papeml@gov.ns.ca).

A unique meeting was called in Ottawa, November 19-22 to consider how best to sustain school libraries in the face of change wrought by the coming of the computer and its information highway, and new calls to reduce the overall cost of schooling. Sixty five individuals representing a diverse range of interests gathered at the National Library of Canada for "Forging Forward: the National Symposium on Information, Literacy and the School Library in Canada". Created by the two groups who represent school libraries in Canada: the Canadian School Library Association (CSLA) and the Association for Teacher-Librarianship in Canada (ATLC), and supported by the Quebec based Library Association - ASTED, this meeting marked a significant moment in public education in Canada.

The group that gathered in Ottawa see the school library as a vehicle for offering a wide range of materials related to the instructional programs in the school, supporting both instruction in the use of the new information tools and in the critical use of information skills across the curriculum. This instructional use requires the expertise of a teacher-librarian as a "knowledge navigator" in this

information-intense world, who with his or her special training, is able to relate the objectives of the school and classroom curriculum to the rich variety of learning resources assembled in the school. Ironically, it is the teacher-librarian who is under fire everywhere as priorities shift, as resources (especially human ones) are reduced, and as the school moves away from developing truly independent learners.

The new school library has embraced the new tools of learning as critical components in meeting the needs of citizens in this new world. The school library is an excellent symbol for the concept of self-directed learning, the notion of reading as an essential skill in our society, the recognition that visual and other literacies must be taught and nurtured through experience, and that "information literacy" may well be the a new curriculum in the "information age".

The Symposium set many objectives and goals for its three-day meeting in Ottawa. While the participants were unable to resolve all the problems, they did strongly reaffirm the fundamental values that our society still holds for the education system:
- that every child should have the opportunity to engage the best learning material we produce;
- that every child should leave the school equipped with skills - the literacies - that will open doors to a continuous learning process;
- that every child should be able to use the computer to connect with a wealth of information from which he or she can find the information needed, and that every child should realize that the school is only a part of a learning environment that is the world.

The school library is an integral part of the fundamental quality of our schools, and a fundamental right of all children in Canada.

HEART HEALTH PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The grim statistics on heart disease in Nova Scotia have prompted a group of concerned community and health workers and volunteers in Western Nova Scotia to get together to find out what to do about it. The initiative is known as the Heart Health Partnership Project and it is headed by Heart Health Nova Scotia, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of NS, the NS Dept. of Health and the Western Regional Health Board. The Project is a chance for organizations, including libraries, and communities to increase their ability to take action on heart disease.

Formed in February 1997, the Heart Health Partnership Project is working to develop heart health action teams. These teams will work with their communities to improve heart health. Community meetings in the Western region will be held in the first few months of 1998. Libraries in the area will be contacted to participate and learn about their potential role on the heart health action teams. For more information, contact Lisa Salley, Regional Coalition Coordinator at (902) 638-8595; FAX (902) 638-8170.

SGML WORKSHOP

Dalhousie's School of Library and Information Studies hosted an SGML workshop on October 30 and 31. The two-day workshop was presented by Dr. Joan M. Cherry of the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto. Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) is a language for document representation that frees documents from proprietary codes and system dependencies, such as those existing in WordPerfect or MS Word. It is an abstract language from which an unlimited number of markup languages can be defined. And "definition" is the keyword here. SGML allows users to define the structural elements of a series of documents and to save that definition as a Document Type. HTML (HyperText Markup Language), which was developed using SGML, is the Document Type Definition used for presenting documents on the platform we know as the World Wide Web.

But SGML has a number of other uses. Manufacturers who require lots of technical documentation, for example, would be prime candidates for using SGML. They can develop a standardized Document Type Definition to be used for all of their technical documentation. SGML's Document Type Definitions force users to adhere to the prescribed and standardized structural elements. SGML does not concern itself with the display layout of documents but rather the structural elements (such as Title, Paragraph, Example). For those of us in the library world, SGML's capacity for defining structured elements of a document can be parallelled with MARC coding. Simply put, MARC is a defined set of fields of a document (in this case, a bibliographic record) much the same way that SGML's Document Types are defined sets of fields.

While SGML itself is ASCII-based and can be used in any text editing software, there are (expensive) tools out there to help, such as SoftQuad's Rules Builder and Author/Editor which are used together with the company's Panorama Pro at a cost of roughly $2500. These would definitely be worth the investment, however, if users are involved in extensive publishing. The workshop was well designed and gave users significant insight into the uses of SGML. Bridget Turner, Carole Compton-Smith and Sue Dirani, all of the Provincial Library, attended.

AUTOMATION COMMITTEES MEET

The second meeting of the NcompasS Automation Management Committee was held on November 6 at the Provincial Library. Participants included chief librarians of all regional libraries including Judith Hare from Halifax Regional Library who is an Associate member, Valerie Brisco from Natural Resources Library, Nancy MacDonald from the Learning Resources and Technology Media Library, and Jean-Louis Robichaud, Director of the Centre provinciale de ressources pedagogiques (CPRP) at Pointe d'Eglise.

Discussion centred around the impact of automation on staff in the regional libraries undergoing rapid implementation and the changes in work flows caused by automation. Further training of regional library staff is becoming a high priority. The impact of Acquisitions on the centralised cataloguing multi-bank environment of NcompasS has resulted in a re-evaluation and adjustment of many tasks.

The quarterly meeting of the Automation Working Group, consisting of technical and sytems persons in

the NcompasS libraries, took place November 21 the Provincial Library. A presentation was made by Andy Cornwall and Jim MacLean, both of the Information Technology Systems (ITS) Division of the Department of Education and Culture, which centred around recent and forthcoming upgrades to EDnet, the Department's province-wide WAN. The upgrade to a 10 Mbps connection between the Provincial Library and the WAN will result in a transfer speed which will be approximately 20 times faster than the current speed of 512 Kbps. Meanwhile ITS and MT&T staff will be testing lines and the Provincial Library LAN to identify sources of any slow response times. All telnet traffic from the libraries will be given priority queuing.

Charlotte Janes of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library reported on the recent implementation of the circulation module in the regional library as the first NcompasS library to have circulation operating in all stationary branches. Issues raised included the procedures required to handle the circulation of special items such as Talking Books and items acquired through ILL. One of the most beneficial aspects of the enhanced collection management faciltities of NcompasS gives patrons independance over the branch to which they return their borrowed library items.

The development of NcompasS over the next two to three years will include a gradual migration over to DRA's new software, TAOS. New hardware is being purchased, and the newly designed EDnet configuration is largely in place. DRAWeb2, the TAOS OPAC, has been released and is expected to arrive in the next few weeks. It will be installed on a Windows NT server on a new IBM RS6000/F50 server in December or January, bringing a very new look to NcompasS. -- Bridget Turner

COPYRIGHT DEMYSTIFIED

On Wednesday, November 5, approximately 60 Nova Scotia library workers attended a day-long workshop on Copyright at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. Leslie Ellen Harris, a noted author and lawyer specializing in Copyright and new media, conducted this workshop which dealt extensively with current and future Copyright issues from a library perspective. Ms. Harris began the workshop with an historical overview of the Copyright revision process in Canada. She provided a concise picture of the role of international Copyright and how the current Copyright Act applies to libraries. Ms. Harris also gave a detailed summary of the various provisions of the recently passed Bill C-32 and how it would affect the liability of libraries and librarians. Many important aspects of the new law were reviewed, including such issues as the definition of Copyright, exceptions, fair dealing and which materials are covered by Copyright.

Ms. Harris stressed the importance of having a written Copyright policy for your own library and of keeping informed of developments in the ongoing Copyright revision process. This workshop was well received by all in attendance, as evidenced by the many questions asked and the lively discussions which took place. -- Frank Oram

TESTIMONIAL - INFOTRAC'S GENERAL REFERENCE CENTER

The regional libaries in Nova Scotia now have Web-based access to InfoTrac's General Reference Center and Health Reference Center. The following testimonial comes from Sharon Wendt at the Wolfville branch of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library:

It is not too early to say I am hooked! Last evening at 8:30 a high school student walked in needing information on overpopulation. I quickly determined that we did not have any print resources available on this topic so I decided to give InfoTrac's General Reference Center a try.

Wow! By 8:45 the student left the library with three full-text articles in hand. They were excellent articles from reputable sources and they actually provided more information that he needed. And the search was relatively easy.

While the student was very happy, so was I. I walked home feeling like I had done a good job of providing the kind of library service that the community expects. After the student left, another person asked for information on exam anxiety in adults. I didn't have time to do the search just then, but I'm excited to try it now! -- Sharon Wendt, AVRL

TRAINING NEWS

In the near future, the number of regional libraries actively cataloguing paperbacks in their own databanks on NcompasS will rise to three. Cataloguing of paperbacks involves copying and modifying matching records found in the regional libraries master database or in other regional databanks, and, in the case of fiction titles for which no matching record is found, copying and completing series templates or creating brief MARC records. The Annapolis Valley Regional Library has been cataloguing paperbacks since they began a pilot project earlier this year. On September 23-24, Johanna Cooper, the Provincial Library's Automation Trainer, visited the Western Counties Regional Library headquarters to provide training in cataloguing of paperbacks for four WCRL staff members. In addition, four staff members of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library received training on the same topic on November 17.

On November 20, Dave Cumby of the Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) received training, at Provincial Library, in the use of DRA Find to search for and download matching bibliographic records for the second phase of ECRL's recon. Using DRA Find, ECRL staff will be able to simultaneously search the regional libraries master database and the catalogue of the Cleveland Public Library. On November 21, Johanna provided addtional training in the use of the Collection Exchange module for Charlotte Janes and Wendy Murphy of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL). In January 1998, AVRL will begin using the Collection Exchange module to exchange materials among their branches.

In other training news, User Services' Carole Compton-Smith and Gillian Webster visited three branches of the Eastern Counties Regional Library on November 12 and 13 to deliver a training workshop on Infotrac's General Reference Center and Health Reference Center. ECRL will be visited again in

December when User Services staff will be en route from Cape Breton. An evening workshop will be offered to health care providers on the Health Reference Center database. Gillian, Carol Morris and Arlene Watts also visited the South Shore Regional Library on November 3 to deliver a training workshop on the Infotrac databases to the SSRL staff.

STAFFING NEWS

Following Christmas vacation Sue Dirani will be taking a four-month leave of absence from the Provincial Library. Sue works in the User Services section doing primarily reference work but also maintaining the Provincial Library's Web site and editing/distributing THE DISSEMINATOR. She is scheduled to return to work on May 1, 1998.

LINKed

It's all I can do at this time of year to resist highlighting Christmas sites. Instead, I'm focusing on miscellenanea! In my absence, Carol Morris will be taking over this column, so if you know of any interesting sites or if you would like to suggest a theme for future columns, please e-mail her (morrisca@gov.ns.ca).

Dept. of Education and Culture - NS Education Statistics http://www.ednet.ns.ca/educ/policy/stats/edstats.htm
- This site contains statistics on students, staff, and financial information for the 1996/97 school year, as well as historical information for each of these categories.

Library Graphics
http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/2161/
- Looking for that perfect graphic to use on your Web site? Look no further. This site has a host of book and computer images that you can download and use at your discretion.

USA Today Calculators
http://www.usatoday.com/money/calculat/mcfront.htm
- Handy little calculators that figure out things like consumer loan payments, tuition payments, retirement income needed. You enter the necessary details and it does the calculation.

BabyCenter
http://www.usatoday.com/money/calculat/mcfront.htm
- Have a new baby? Or thinking about having one? This site has everything you would ever want to know about pregnancy, looking after baby and mother, pre and post-natal exercise, and working while parenting. -- Sue Dirani

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. The patron wants a copy of the Pension Benefits Division Act from the Statutes of Canada.

A. The Consolidated Statutes of Canada including the Criminal Code updated to August 31, 1996 are located at the following address on the Internet: http://canada.justice.gc.ca/Loireg/index_en.html. The text of the Pension Benefits Division Act can be found here in an alphabetical listing of the various acts.

Q. The patron would like information on the Alexander method or technique which is used in the theatre for improving body movement.

A. A search was done by entering the keywords "alexander technique" at the "SavvySearch" search engine (http://www.cs.colostate.edu/~dreiling/smartform.html) which queries the other Internet search engines simultaneously. This brought up a lot of interesting sites including these three: Alexander Technique:Medical and Scientific Research and Endorsements (http://www.alexandertechnique.com/research2/); Alexander Technique: The Complete Guide To The Alexander Technique (http://www.alexandertechnique.com/); and The Society of Teachers of the Alexander Technique (http://www.pavilion.co.uk/stat/). -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, we are featuring two of our most recently received books on the subject of the Internet. These books are available from our Professional Collection through regular Interlibrary Loan channels.

1) Ensor, Pat (Ed.). **The Cybrarian's Manual**. Chicago: American Library Association, 1997. (Call # Prof. 025 .04 Cyb)

This book is intended to be a guide to exploring cyberspace, which the author defines as the collective virtual space created by the operations of millions of computers linked together. It is intended to be used as a tool to provide sources of insight, information and tips to assist you as you explore this vast universe. It is not intended as a resource for the beginner but rather for the intermediate user of the Internet who already has some experience using Internet sources. The beginner can also profit from this book if he/she is willing to use the sources listed at the end of each chapter.

2) Fidelman, Miles R. **All-Out Internet Access**. Chicago: American Library Association, 1997. (Call # Prof. 025 .04 Fid)

"All-Out Internet Access" provides a step-by-step look at defining, planning, implementing, operating and supporting Internet services for library patrons. The author uses the Cambridge Massachusetts Public Library as an example of how to provide Internet access. The book explores what you can expect

once you make the Internet available to the public. It also examines the broader context in which library Internet services are evolving. This book is intended as a planning tool and not as an introduction to the Internet or to basic computing concepts. Throughout it you will find many references to resources available online. -- Frank Oram

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